LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION MINUTES

June 4, 2015

Pat Manuel CHAIRMAN

Dan Davis
VICE CHAIRMAN

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

The following constitute minutes of the Commission Meeting and are not a verbatim transcript of the proceedings.

Tapes of the meetings are kept at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

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Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808.

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AGENDA LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION BATON ROUGE, LA June 4, 2015 9:30 AM

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, June 4, 2015

Chairman Pat Manuel presiding

Present:
Pat Manuel
Dan Davis
Ronny Graham
Bart Yakupzack
Ed Swindell
Billy Broussard
Chad Courville

Secretary Barham was present

Wendy Brogdon Called Roll

Chairman Manuel called for a motion for approval of the **April 2, 2015** and **May 7, 2015 Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Broussard and seconded by Commissioner Davis. Chairman Manuel called for a vote and the motion passed with no opposition.



For the agenda item, Commission Special Announcements/Personal Privilege,

Chairman Manuel asked for a moment of silence for one of our enforcement agents, Sgt. Scott Bullitt, who was injured in an assault. He asked everyone to please take a moment of silence to pray for Sgt. Bullitt and his family.

Commissioner Courville advised that he attended a special event at Headquarters on May 20, 2015 announcing the proposal to remove the Louisiana black bear from the list of threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. One of his first encounters with Secretary Barham was the Secretary's goal in getting the Louisiana black bear delisted. Commissioner Courville further advised that an unbelievable program was held and it's really a testament to Secretary Barham and his staff, along with your ability and your team's ability, to make that happen. I want to congratulate everyone.

Secretary Barham commented that the operative word Commissioner Courville mentioned was the "staff." It's the people here at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries that deserve all that applause and the biologists that we have. This is just a continuation of the wonderful work that this Department has done dating back to the alligator, bald eagle, or the brown pelican, and now it's the Louisiana black bear. It's these fantastic

biologists that work here and the entire staff that works here. Mrs. Wendy Brogdon, who organized this special event, should be especially recognized for putting on the fantastic event that you enjoyed here. The work to get the Louisiana black bear delisted is because of these fantastic employees that we are lucky enough to have in Louisiana.

There were no other comments or questions heard.



For the agenda item, Special Recognition of Tony Vidrine – Quality Deer Managers Association (QDMA) Deer Manager of the Year National Award Recipient,

Two individuals dedicated to improving deer hunting opportunities for those who hunt in Louisiana were honored with Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) awards -- Tony Vidrine and Roland Dugas, III. The awards presented were named in honor of Al Brothers, who is considered the father of quality deer management. Each year, QDMA selects one individual worldwide, as the recipient of this award. Individuals are only considered for the award if they are recognized as having a longstanding record or service and contributions to quality deer management and the white-tailed deer resource, having made significant, identifiable impacts on deer and deer hunting through education, research or management on public and private lands. The award places Vidrine in the honor roll for deer management world along with other distinguished individuals such as Grant Woods, Steve Shea, Karl Miller, and former LDWF employee Dave Moreland.

Tony Vidrine was recognized by WMA Program Manager, Steve Smith, who stated that it is an honor and pleasure that I have the opportunity to speak in recognition of an award recently received by one of the members of the WMA program staff. This past April, the Quality Deer Management Associations, Al Brothers Professional Deer Manager of the Year Award, was awarded to and received by Tony Vidrine, WMA Ecoregion Manager for the MAVS Ecoregion. The award is named in honor of Al Brothers, who is considered the father of quality deer management. Each year QDMA selects one individual worldwide, as the recipient of this award. Individuals are only considered for the award if they are recognized as having a longstanding record or service and contributions to quality deer management and the white-tailed deer resource, having made significant, identifiable impacts on deer and deer hunting through education, research or management on public and private lands. This year we are proud to recognize Tony as this individual. Tony's name on this award places him in the deer management world with other distinguished individuals such as Grant Woods, Steve Shea, Karl Miller, and former LDWF employee Dave Moreland.

With this recognition, I would also like to recognize some of the specifics of Tony's career with the department. In 1983, Tony earned a degree in Forestry from LSU. While at LSU Tony began his LDWF career as a Wildlife Specialist (Technician) on Bohemia and Biloxi Marsh WMA's, where he continued to learn and apply the lessons from his time at LSU. Tony's varied experiences during his 30-year career has prepared him for his present position as WMA Biologist Manager for the Mississippi Alluvial Valley South Eco-region. Tony currently oversees 11 WMAs, directly supervising 2 Biologist Supervisors and 1 Administrative Assistant, along with indirect supervision of 16 additional staff. Deer management accomplishments are numerous. Deer management has always been one of Tony's primary interests. He enjoys learning about advances in deer management and then applying them to his work on WMAs. He has certainly been a go to person in any deer relevant issue-both public

and private lands, floods, WMA regs, and in research and data collection. He has contributed a lifetime of important deer work. He has been instrumental management and regulatory decisions made in by the agency in the lower MAV and statewide. The DMAP program under his supervision was exceptional. The breeding data collected was critical in the establishment of the Deer Management Areas in that portion of the state. The pre and post flood monitoring and habitat assessments conducted in the lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley provided data needed to assess both habitat and herd condition. The competency and responsibility he delivered in his role as a DMAP biologist led to high enrollment within his parishes of responsibility. He basically led the way through his efforts.

Managing the WMA system for public use is another challenge that Tony enjoys very much. You will not find anyone more passionate and committed to providing outdoor recreational opportunity for hunters. Tony strives to make each WMA in his Region a place where sound wildlife management is practiced and users can appreciate the tranquility of the environment. One of the reasons that LDWF WMAs are so popular with the public is because of managers like Tony Vidrine. Under Tony's direction youth lottery hunts were implemented on 7 WMA's for various species including deer, turkey and waterfowl. Stands were constructed and lottery youth deer hunts were initiated on 3 WMA's under his direction. Tony always placed a strong emphasis on providing hunting opportunities for the public. In addition, his emphasis on providing youth opportunities should be commended. Establishment of the earlier mentioned hunts as well as providing hunter safety classes as a hunter safety volunteer has helped hundreds of young hunters. In addition, Tony takes youth hunters each year on his own time on some of their first hunts. He is always giving back to the sport even when on his personal time.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of individuals like Tony, we can trust that WMAs will continue to be premier wildlife recreational areas for public enjoyment, now and into the future. As an individual, I have had the opportunity to work under his supervision and currently have the opportunity to work with him as his supervisor. For the last 11 years of working with him, he has and still provides mentorship in the profession to me, as well as numerous individuals. I continue to learn from his attitude, work ethic, and knowledge in the field. He is an effective individual when it comes to accomplishing goals in his work, and his goals are with the best and optimal interest of the wildlife resources and sportsmen for which we work. We all agree there is probably not a more deserving person in our agency.

The next award recipient, **Roland Dugas, III**, was honored by former LDWF employee Dave Moreland, who stated that Roland Dugas of Baton Rouge holds a BS degree in Petroleum Land Management from LSU. He has extensive experience in the acquisition of rural land, and developing those lands to increase their value. He has been a QDMA member since 2003 and a sponsor member in 2006 and 2008. He is also a member of the National Deer Alliance, Ducks Unlimited, CCA-Louisiana, the Rocky Mountain Elk Association and the Black Bear Conservation Coalition. As part owner of a 9,500-acre property in Avoyelles Parish, Dugas has managed the property to improve wildlife habitat and been responsible for implementation of several conservation easements on the property. He has the property enrolled in the DMAP program and partners with the state's black bear restoration efforts. As a member of the south Louisiana branch of QDMA, Dugas has helped organize and carry out numerous field days, educational seminars and fundraising events.



Chairman Manuel announced the next item, **To Hear Enforcement Reports for May,** to be presented by Lt Col. Martin.

There were Ten (10) boating accidents reported, Four (4) injuries and Two (2) Fatalities. There were 886 total cases for the month of May with 658 Written Warnings issued and 45 Public Assistance.

Three (3) News releases were discussed:

LDWF Agent Shot While On Patrol; Listed In Serious Condition; Suspect Captured

A Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division agent was shot in the line of duty while on patrol on the Russell Sage Wildlife Management Area in Ouachita Parish.

Around 6:40 p.m. Sgt. Scott Bullitt, 32, of Jonesboro, along with another agent stopped a vehicle at the end of Buckley Hill Road near the Wham Break Boat Launch. Sgt. Bullitt believed the occupants of the vehicle to be impaired and proceeded to go back to the LDWF patrol vehicle.

While walking back to his vehicle, Sgt. Bullitt was shot in the lower back by the passenger of the vehicle, later identified as Luke Jarrod Hust, 29, of Monroe. The other agent returned fire. Hust fled the scene into the woods. It is unknown if Hust was hit.

The unwounded agent was able to call for help and apprehend the driver of the vehicle, whom authorities don't believe fired any shots at this time. The driver was subsequently brought in for questioning.

Around 7 p.m. the Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office deputies arrived on the scene and were able to take Sgt. Bullitt to a local Monroe hospital where he is listed in serious condition.

The LDWF Enforcement Division, State Police, Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office, the Monroe Police Dept., and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection set up a perimeter and searched the area for Hust. At 11 p.m. authorities located and arrested Hust on Timber Lane Drive in Monroe.

"We are praying for the well-being of Sgt. Bullitt and his family," said LDWF Sec. Robert Barham. "Also want to give thanks to everyone that helped locate this fugitive so that justice can be served."

Sgt. Bullitt has been an LDWF agent for over five years and is married with no kids. He recently received the "Louisiana Highway Safety Commission DWI Award" presented on March 24. He was selected among statewide agents to receive this award due to his dedication and hard work to make Louisiana waterways and roadways safer for the traveling public by removing impaired drivers.

"This is a sad day for all wildlife and fisheries agents in the country," said Col. Broussard, head of the LDWF Enforcement Division. "Our agents travel into remote areas patrolling public lands often and it can be a very dangerous task as we saw tonight. My thoughts at this time are with Sgt. Bullitt and his family and also the brave men and women that contributed to catching the shooter."

Louisiana State Police will be the lead investigative agency for this shooting incident.

LDWF Agents Assist with Saving Three Year Old Boy's Life

Authorities saved a three year old boy from drowning in a swimming pool at a residence on the Amite River Diversion Canal in Livingston Parish on May 10.

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) Enforcement Division agents Lt. Louis Burnett and Senior Agent Michael Marques Jr. were on vessel patrol around 5 p.m. on the Diversion Canal when they were flagged down by a woman from a dock near her residence on Home Port Road. The woman told them that a three year old boy was found face down in her pool a few minutes ago.

Senior Agent Marques Jr. raced to the pool about 25 yards from the dock and found the child lying on the ground next to the pool not breathing. Marques Jr. put his hand on the child's chest and felt the heart beating. He then cleared the airway of the child by performing the head-tilt, chin-lift maneuver. The child then let out a gasp of air that prompted Marques Jr. to lay the child on his side to promote more breathing.

While Marques Jr. was performing first responder aid to the child, Lt. Burnett was radioing for paramedics to the scene and securing the vessel.

Marques Jr. and Lt. Burnett were able to keep the child breathing until some volunteers from the Fifth Ward Fire Department showed up with oxygen for the child. The LDWF agents and Fire Department personnel were able to keep the child breathing on oxygen until Acadian Ambulance paramedics arrived shortly thereafter. The child was then airlifted to Our Lady of the Lake Hospital in Baton Rouge. The child was admitted into the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit and is expected to make a full recovery.

"Everybody involved did a great job to keep this child alive," said Col. Joey Broussard, head of the LDWF Enforcement Division. "Senior Agent Marques' efforts were heroic and the fact he acted so quickly probably saved the child's life."

All LDWF agents are trained and certified in first responder training which includes cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) every year.

According to an adult male, he turned his back on the child briefly while gathering some fishing poles. When he was finished he then found the child face down in the swimming pool and immediately retrieved the boy's body. He then attempted CPR before Marques Jr. arrived on the scene.

Three Men Convicted for Oyster Violations in Terrebonne Parish

Three Houma men were found guilty of oyster violations in Terrebonne Parish Division E Court on May 18.

Judge Randy Bethancourt sentenced Samuel Dobson, 35, the captain of the oyster vessel, to pay \$1,654.50 in fines, to forfeit his commercial fishing license for 10 years, 120 hours of community service in a litter abatement program and one year of supervised probation. Judge Bethancourt ordered John Parker 111,25,to pay a \$2,629.50 fine and Dylan Parker, 21, to pay a \$2,679.50 fine.

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division agents arrested the men for oyster harvesting violations on Dec. 18 in Terrebonne Parish. Agents arrested the men for taking oysters during a closed

season on the Sister Lake Public Oyster Seed Reservation, taking oysters from a polluted area, taking oysters during illegal hours, taking oysters without commercial gear and vessel licenses, and violating the sanitation code (log book).

On Dec. 18 around 8:30 p.m., LDWF agents were patrolling the Sister Lake Seed Reservation when they observed a vessel in the open water of Sister Lake dredging for oysters. Agents stopped the vessel and found the three men in possession of two sacks of oysters.

Agents seized the vessel, two oyster dredges and returned the oysters to the water. The men were booked into the Terrebonne Parish Jail.

The Sister Lake Public Oyster Seed Reservation is closed for the 2014/15 season.

Agents participating in this care were Sgt. Thomas Dewitt, Sgt. Brian Marie, Senior Agent Jamie Folse, Agent Richard Bean and Agent Lucas Hidalgo. Assistant District Attorney Chris Erny prosecuted the case.

There were no comments or questions heard.



Chairman Manuel announced the next item, to hear presentations from three proposals to utilize Breeding Waterfowl Habitat Conservation Funding

Mr. Woody Booth, a representative from United Prairie Foundation ("UPF"), advised that their organization is requesting \$35,000 in funding from the LDWF for three years. Their organization's goal is to set up a multi-state developmental program to establish and develop various plots of native prairie and other grassland, etc., and to keep the public educated on what they are doing.

Commissioner Davis asked whether the funding request was \$35,000 annually, and Mr. Booth confirmed that United Prairie Foundation is requesting \$35,000 annually for three years.

There were no other comments or questions heard.



Mr. Dave Kostersky, a representative from Ducks Unlimited, advised that their organization is requesting \$325,000 in funding annually for three years from the LDWF. He provided an overview of their funding request as more fully described in the following PowerPoint presentation.





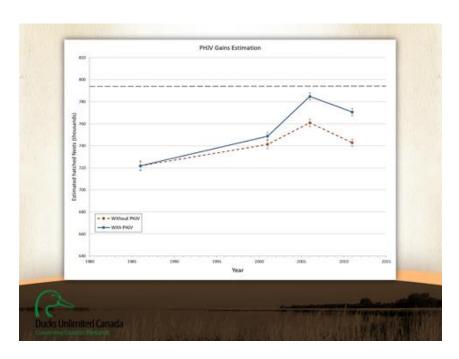
- DUC has invested over \$100 Million in research over the past 25 years in the PPR to ensure our conservation programs are guided by the best science.
- DUC has hosted multiple monitoring visits by LDWF staff and NAWCA staff over the past 25 years with all
 positive reviews
- DU has secured over 13 Million acres and currently has 22,259 members in Louisiana and over 700,000 across the US and Canada. Our conservation efforts are guided by dedicated hunters and conservation enthusiasts.



Ducks Unlimited has established continental priorities. As you can see there are only three areas that rank number one. At the top of the list is the Prairie pothole region and the Western boreal forest. But the Gulf Coast/Mississippi Alluvial Valley is also a class one priority. Our conservation goals on the breeding grounds cannot be reached without also achieving our goals in Louisiana. This past year DU invested nearly \$1 Million here in Louisiana and with partner funding of nearly \$10 Million accomplished a record 22,003 acres of habitat conservation.



DUC is the leading delivery agency in the PHJV accomplishing nearly 70% of the habitat accomplishments across this region. We have proven that we can efficiently and effectively turn conservation \$'s into long-term habitat gains.



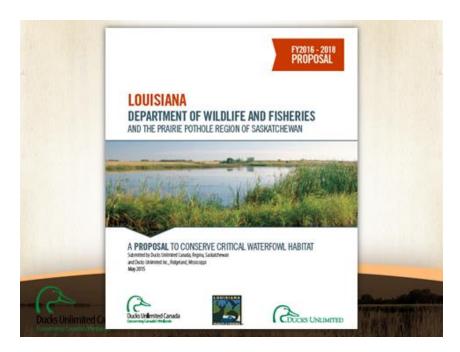
PHJV partner investment of resources has contributed to a significant growth in waterfowl recruitment on the Canadian prairies. This is a tremendous accomplishment in spite of on going wetland loss. Through long-term growing habitat accomplishments we are 55% of the way to the waterfowl recruitment goals for prairie Canada. But due to ongoing risk to wetlands if we stop now our gains will be lost.

Habitat Initiative	Goals (Acres)	Proposed Costs (\$)	Achieved (acres)	Program Costs (\$)
Habitat Retention	4000	2,193,750	7,533	2,450,257
Wetland Restoration	290	438,750	141	116,072
Upland Restoration	6000	292,500	6,820	519,284
Habitat Asset Management*	325,000	975,000	546,131	829,871
Total	10,290	3,900,000	14,494	3,915,484

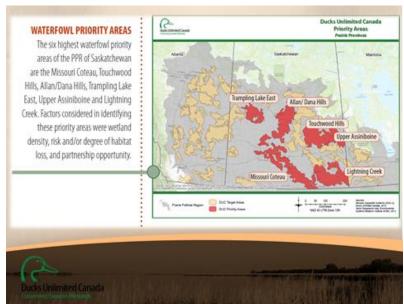
As demonstrated in the FY 15 Report submitted to LDWF. Ducks Unlimited exceeded our planned acre accomplishments and focused our resources on long-term habitat protection.



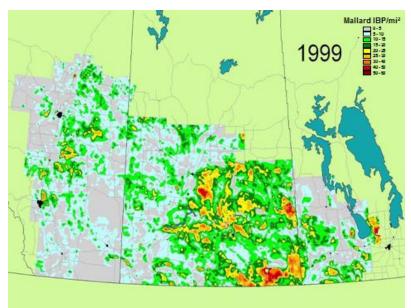
The conservation need continues.



I would like to recognize the RFP process and our interest to meet your conservation interests on the breeding grounds.

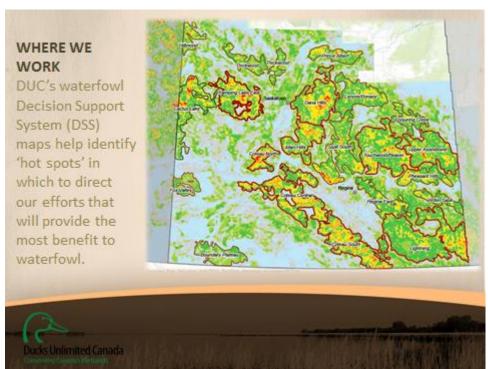


Ducks unlimited has applied our science to identify target areas across the PPR. These target areas cover the highest predicted breeding waterfowl densities under average conditions. However conditions are rarely average across the entire PPR. It is the wet/dry cycle that makes this landscape productive. But also leads us in the direction of long-term diverse program delivery. The next series of slides demonstrates how the change in water conditions over a 25 year time period affects the waterfowl recruitment potential of each hot spot.



As you can see if we invest our funding in short term localized projects we could see no return on an annual investment. However by investing the funding in longer-term programs such as easements, purchase and greater than 10 year agreements we reap the returns of wet conditions when applied to our conservation investment.







All of DU programs are directed to long term change. Our research has guided us away from short term small scale projects as the return on investment is small and not of a sustained value. These little pieces are production sinks if not associated with larger habitat blocks. We have done the waterfowl research on PPR habitat mix and population impact and that has lead us to perpetual and long term habitat conservation. Even our lease program is only utilized if it is associated with a long term (Conservation easement) outcome.



Our habitat restoration efforts are also directed at landscape change. We have worked with agricultural producers for the past 75 years and under the NAWMP for the last 27 years to implement science based programs that drive effective conservation. We must do more than protect what is left but our investment in restoration must focus on long term change and not high annual cost programs. Our wetland restorations are protected by long term agreements or conservation easements. Forage programs are a minimum of 10 years and are a key tool to creating a partnership that leads to broader change. We are changing the wheat industry through the development and promotion of winter wheat, an agronomically and economically sound crop that benefits nesting ducks.



DU research gives our organization that ability to monitor our Because of our success in partnership with LDWF and other PHJV partners we have amassed 1.8 million acres of habitat on 2,960 projects. These projects provide our returns on investment and require annual resources to ensure they are in the best shape possible.



It is your state dollar that drives prairie Canada conservation. Neither the DU match or NAWCA match occurs without the LDWF dollar. Your partnership is part of a collective effort in Saskatchewan and across Canada. LDWF is one of 13 states that funds work in Saskatchewan and one of 40 that fund across Canada. In addition to these state partnerships DUC works with many partners in Saskatchewan to supplement the Canadian support for this work. This Canadian support is not counted in our leveraging formula but does contribute significantly to the success of the PHJV and conservation in Saskatchewan.

Habitat Initiative	Accomplishments (acres)	Program Costs (\$)
Habitat Retention	10,500	\$2,760,000
Wetland Restoration	200	\$205,000
Upland Restoration	2,700	\$400,000
Habitat Asset Management	275,000	\$535,000
Total	13,400	\$3,900,000



Ducks Unlimited Canada as a leader in the PHJV has worked with over 1400 partners and 17,000 landowners. We work from the farm gate to large corporate partners like Bayer Crop Science. We work with the Municipal governments up to the federal offices. It is only through successful partnerships guided by sound waterfowl science that we have made and can continue to make a difference in Prairie Canada and here in Louisiana.



There were no comments or questions heard.



Dr. Frank Rohwer and Mr. Jonathan Scarth, representatives from the Delta Waterfowl Foundation, advised that their organization is requesting \$160,000 in funding annually for three years from the LDWF. Both gentlemen provided an overview of their funding request as more fully described in the following PowerPoint presentation.



The Prairie Pothole Region



- Birthplace of up to 75% of key species in the harvest
- Investments to increase duck populations best spent in PPR
- Largest portion of PPR (2/3) in Canada



Two Primary Needs



- Maintain Breeding Capacity
- Maximize Production

Protect Wetlands

- Small wetlands most at risk
- · Toughest to protect



Increase Nest Success

- · Good quality habitat
- Duck production programs



Canadian PPR - Challenges

DELTA

- Wetland losses pose the biggest risk to duck production over the long term
- Wetland losses have continued at same rate for over 30 years (Including NAWMP target landscapes)
- We need a new approach to conserve wetlands and enhance nesting cover



Working with Private Landowners



Critical to Success

- Over 90% of ducks are produced on private lands
- Need for voluntary, term agreements to complement purchase and regulatory approaches





Alternative Land Use Services





A New Model



A new model for conservation that engages landowners and their communities at the center of conservation programming.



ALUS - Key Features



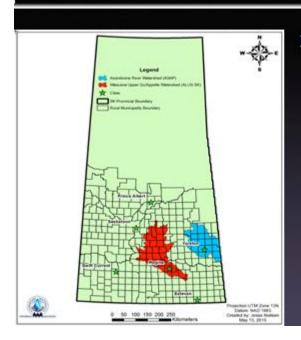
Key Features:

- Term agreements
- Delivered by local community
- Engages landowners who contribute 'sweat equity'
- Complements purchase, regulatory approach



Saskatchewan Priority Area





ALUS Saskatchewan Program Delivery Areas

- Wascana Upper Qu'Appelle Watershed
 - ALUS Saskatchewan
- Assiniboine River Watershed
 - ALUS SK Assiniboine Project-ASAP

Wetlands and Nesting Cover



Wetlands - maintain breeding capacity Nesting cover - increase hatch rates



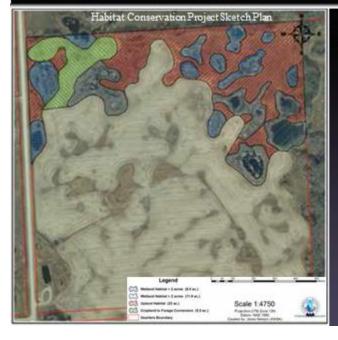
Real People – Real Conservation Outcomes





ALUS – SK Assiniboine Project





Wetlands and Nesting Cover

Summary



Conservation Action	Treatment Cost	Acres Conserved	Cost per acre
Wetland leases	\$497,250	1,975	\$253
Newly established nesting cover (including costs to establish cover)	\$599,250	550	\$1,082
Conservation of existing nesting cover	\$127,500	550	\$232
Wetland Restorations	\$51,000	28	\$1,897
TOTAL	\$1,275,000	3,103	\$411

5.6 to 1 Matching



Funding Source	Funds Invested
Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries	\$480,000
National Conservation Plan (Government of Canada)	\$165,000
Private contributions	\$575,000
In-kind contributions (Delta Waterfowl, partners, landowners)	\$55,000
TOTAL	\$1,275,000
Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (MHHC) conservation program spending	\$480,000
NAWCA Match	\$960,000
Total including NAWCA match	\$2,715,000



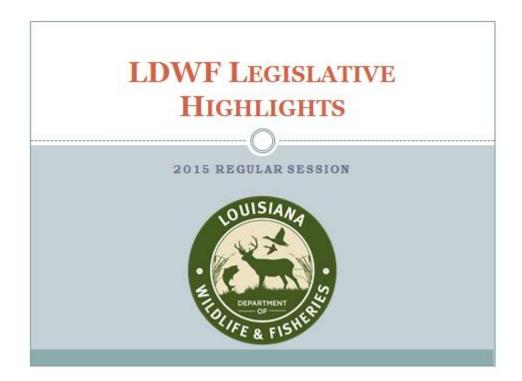
Chairman Manuel opened the floor for public comments regarding the three proposals to utilize Breeding Waterfowl Habitat Conservation funding. The following individuals voiced their support of Ducks Unlimited including Zac Brown, Michael Patterson, Andrea Cooper, Mike Benge, Kurt Cazayoux, Richard Talluto, Robert Walker, Jay Owen, Alanda McCray, and Bob Dew. The following individuals voiced their support of Delta Waterfowl including: George Brown, Bryan Leach, Jonathan Jimney, Phillip Fontenot, Cooper Huff, Joey Gauthier, Ashton Eschett, and Tom Dufour.

Commissioner Swindell asked when the Commission must take action on the three proposals, and Chairman Manuel advised at the next July 2015 meeting.

There were no other comments or questions heard.



Chairman Manuel announced the next item, to hear an update on the Legislative Session, to be presented by attorney, Cole Garrett, Legislative Liaison for LDWF. Mr. Garrett provided an overview to the Commission as more fully described in the following PowerPoint presentation.



Bills Affecting the Entire Department

. HB 46 - Benefits for Minor Children of LDWF Enforcement Agents

- o Raises age of eligibility from 18 to 23, if unmarried and enrolled in school
- Adopts the definition of "Minor Child" used by all other retirement systems
- o Enrolled

HB 283 – Authorizes Advertisements on LDWF Properties

- o WLF Commission shall establish rules governing such advertisements
- o DOTD passed similar legislation and has a \$250,000 annual contract
- o Pending final passage on Senate Floor

SB 196 – Repeals Constitutionally Dedicated & Protected Funds

- o The Conservation Fund and Artificial Reef Fund would be repealed
- o Involuntarily deferred in Senate Finance Committee

SB 254 – Authorizes Alternative ID for Purchase of LDWF Licenses

- Authorizes WLF Commission to adopt alternative licenses for hunting/fishing licenses.
- o Voluntarily deferred in Senate Natural Resources Committee

Wildlife Bills - Feral Hogs

- HB 51 Bounty Program for Feral Hogs
 - Authorizes LDWF to contract with private landowners & pay up to \$2.50 match per feral hog taken
 Involuntarily deferred in House Natural Resources Committee
- HB 167 Year Round Night Hunting for Feral Hogs
 - Currently prohibited during hunting season (September February), except by LDWF permit
 Involuntarily deferred in Senate Natural Resources
- HB 228 Restricts Transportation of Feral Hogs
 - Prohibits transport of feral hogs without a permit issued by LDWF
 - o Involuntarily deferred in House Natural Resources Committee
- HB 306 Exempts Hunting Outlaw Quadrupeds from LDWF Licensing Requirements
 - No hunting license would be required for a person taking outlaw quadrupeds,
 Amended in Committee to develop an Outlaw Quadruped Lifetime License

 - Pending final passage on the House Floor





Wildlife Related Bills

SB 133 – Hunting & Shooting in Unincorporated Areas of a Parish

- Prohibits parish governments from restricting hunting and shooting of firearms on parcels over 5 acres
- o Pending Senate concurrence for technical amendments

SB 210 - Hunters for the Hungry Administration Fees

- Increases amount to be used for administrative costs from 10% of the fund to 25%
- Allows for advertising and promotion and offers clarification
- o Pending concurrence in the Senate

SB 212 – Possession of Firearms While Bow Hunting

- o Allows for individuals to carry any caliber firearm while bow hunting
- Amendment: does not limit the WLF Commission's ability to regulate hunting activity on WMAs
- o Pending concurrence in the Senate

SCR 83 – Urges WLF Commission to Rename Sicily Island Hills WMA

- Requests Commission to change the name to the J.C. "Sonny" Gilbert Wildlife Management Area

SCR 105 – Requests the LA LawInstitute to Study State Mineral Interests

- Urges the Law Institute to make recommendations regarding whether prescriptive periods apply to those mineral interests owned by the State
- Passed Senate

Fisheries Bills - Oysters

HB 116 - Oyster Leasing Buffer for Residential Docks

- Establishes a buffer preventing the leasing or renewal of oyster leases within 100' from a residential bulkhead
- o Voluntarily deferred in House Natural Resources Committee

HB 341 - Additional Penalties for Illegal Taking of Oysters from Leased Acreage

- Provides for license revocation, mandatory VMS, and community service for
- Enrolled

HB 579 - Increases Lease Rates on Oyster Leases and Dedicates Funds

- Increases system lease rental rates from \$2/acre to \$3/acre beginning January 1, 2016
- Dedicates syster lease revenue to the Public Oyster Seed Ground Development Account
 Pending final passage of the Senate

HB 680 - Private Oyster Leases on Private Properties

- Creates a 90-day period for private landowners to challenge the issuance of an LDWF oyster lease
 Makes LDWF leases subservient to existing recorded private leases on dual-claimed land and establishes a right of first refusal for private lessees
- Creates a presumption of legal harvest on private water bottoms not issued by the state for lessees of private recorded leases
- O Voluntarily Deferred in House Natural Resources Committee

HCR 104 - Creates the Oyster Moratorium Lifting Committee

- Comprised of Z Oyster seats, Z oil and gas seats, 1 landowner, and ex-officio members
- Provides a list of 13 items to be specifically examined by the committee
 Requires a 2/3 vote of the voting members to take action
- o Pending final passage of the Senate





Fisheries Bills - Crabs & Shrimp

HB 198 – Increases Crab Trap Gear Licenses

- Resident gear license increased from \$35 to \$50
- Non-Resident gear license increased from \$140 to \$200
- Dedicates a portion of those funds to the Crab Promotion and Marketing Fund & Derelict Crab Trap Fund

HB 332 – Commercial Crab Trap Gear License Eligibility

- Provides that buyers of crabs who can prove landings through trip ticket data are eligible for a commercial crab trap gear license
- Enrolled

HB 668 – Enforcement of Turtle Excluder Devices in State Waters

- Repeals prohibitions on enforcement of the federal TEDs and BRDs devices in shrimp trawls
- Authorizes the WLF Commission to establish rules compatible with the federal regulations
- o Requires LDWF agents to use body cameras when enforcing these regulations
- · Pending final passage on the Senate Floor

SCR 66 – Memorializes Congress to Pass the PROTECT Act

- Memorializes Congress to take action against illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing in Louisiana waters
- Enrolled



Fisheries Bills - Finfish & Crawfish

HB 303 – Stock Assessment for Commercial Finfish Species

- Allows for more flexible management based upon the best available science
- Removes spawning potential ratio metrics as management triggers
- Enrolled

HB 228 – Dedicates Funds to Operate a Salvinia Weevil Facility

- Originally dedicated mineral revenue from Lake Bistineau to LDWF for the operations of a salvinia weevil research facility
- Amended to mandate that LDWF pay \$300,000 out of Conservation Fund for operations
- Involuntarily deferred in Senate Natural Resources

HB 438 – Minimum Size Limit for Crawfish

- Establishes a 3.5 inch minimum size limit on crawfish sold for direct human consumption
- Voluntarily deferred in House Natural Resources

HCR 138 – Creates a Crawfish Study Committee

- Study issues surrounding both the farm-raised and wild-caught crawfish industries
- Involuntarily deferred

HCR 140 – Wild-Caught Crawfish Season

- Urges LDWF to examine establishing a wild-caught crawfish season
- Involuntarily deferred









There were no comments or questions heard.



Chairman Manuel announced the next item, to set the October 2015 Meeting Date A discussion took place and the meeting is set for October 1, 2015.

A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Broussard and seconded by Commissioner Graham. Chairman Manuel called for a vote and the motion passed with no opposition.

There were no other comments heard.

There being no further business, Chairman Manuel Adjourned the meeting.

Pat Manuel, Chairman